

## Protocol for Clearing Public Statements

Approved by Alliance States on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

**Communications Group:** A communications group that ~~can~~represents the diversity of Alliance State views will help to screen public statements before they are ahead of being circulated to all Alliance States for clearance~~the whole group~~.

**Non-Policy Statements:** The communications group will ~~clear~~approve~~on~~ statements that do not announce new policies (e.g., press releases announcing new members).

**Unanimous Consent:** Unless otherwise specified in this document, statements by the Alliance will require affirmative, unanimous approval of Alliance States.

**Statements of New Policy:** ~~There was general agreement that if~~any~~a~~ public statements ~~are~~includes the announcement of a breaking ground on new Alliance policy or policy position~~policies~~ (e.g., an Alliance-wide ~~or within~~ initiatives or a statement opposing a federal action), then Alliance States ~~asked~~will have~~for~~ 48 hours to decide whether to proceed with drafting on a no-objection procedure (states that want affirmative clearance should notify the Secretariat).

Once a statement is drafted, Alliance State representatives will have 5 days to provide feedback on the statement. The Secretariat will incorporate that feedback and send an updated version to Alliance States for their approval within 10 business days.~~to clear text~~

If this clearance process results in edits from Alliance States, the Secretariat will incorporate edits and send a final version to Alliance States. Alliance States will have 3 business days to approve the final version.~~if~~

**Social Media:** The Alliance will use Twitter as its social media platform, and only the Secretariat will tweet from the Alliance account. Since Twitter is intended for timely~~to~~ responses~~to time-relevant~~ announcements, ~~there was general agreement that tweets should not require lengthy clearances~~the clearance process is shorter than for press releases and other statements. ~~Most tweets should~~will highlight Alliance actions ~~and~~and individual governor leadership on climate, relying on the Secretariat to use good judgement to avoid controversial topics, rather than requiring clearance by states.

The Alliance will not regularly tweet third-party reports or news articles. Before tweeting about a third-party report, the Secretariat will give states 2 business days to review the tweet. When possible, the Secretariat will~~There was disagreement on what to do about tweeting third-party data (e.g. an energy report).~~ One suggestion to resolve the question was to send a series of tweets ahead of time for clearance.

Examples:

**No clearance:**

- “Governor X announces new offshore wind development”

- “Read our submission to the Talanoa Dialogue here”

**Clearance (tweets sent ahead of time for review in batches)?**

- “U.S. Energy & Employment Report shows that @USClimate States are responsible for nearly half the clean energy jobs in America”
- “IPCC 1.5 degree report shows we need to do more - @USClimate States are committed to meet their share of the Paris goals”

**Actions endorsed by sub-set of Alliance States:** Where the Alliance releases a public statement that reflects action taken by a sub-set of Alliance States, those Alliance states will have 10-business days to clear any text. Other Alliance States will receive the text two in advance of publication, as a courtesy. Such statements will not suggest that all Alliance states are participating in the action, and will indicate that some Alliance states are taking the action~~be written so as to imply Alliance-wide support for the statement.~~

**Time-sensitive:** For public statements that are time-sensitive, there will be an abbreviated clearance process ~~will be utilized, working closely with states to ensure everyone is informed.~~ The Secretariat and Alliance States will ~~There was strong support for limiting limit time-sensitive statements~~ as much as possible ~~time-sensitive statements.~~

**Reports and lengthier documents:** For Alliance reports and other material produced well in advance, Alliance States will be given as much additional time as possible for approval~~beyond the 10-days to clear material.~~ ~~For reports in particular that highlight state action, an iterative process is necessary.~~